Johal Committee recommendations on Agricultural Diversification in Punjab

3257. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) which other crops can be planned for agricultural diversification in Punjab in lieu of the present wheat paddy rotation;

(b) whether sugarcane could be one of the crops in such a diversification scheme;

(c) whether Government will implement Johal Committee recommendations for diversificaiton of crops in Punjab;

(d) how many licences are to be issued in Punjab for processing to increase sugarcane production;

(e) how many applications for private or Government sugar mills have been received for grant of licences for sugar mills during the last three years;

(f) how many of them have been cleared, number of applications rejected and the number of those which are still pending; and

(g) the reasons for these pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM):

(a) The oilseed crops, Maize, Soyabean, Vegetables, Pulses and Sugarcane are some of the crops for diversification of crops in Punjab.

(b) yes, Sir. To a limited extent.

(c) State Government is making efforts for diversification of crops in Punjab.

(d) to (g) During last 3 sugar years i.e. 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 (October—September), 17 proposals were received; 6 in Public Sector, 7 in Corporative Sector and 4 in Private Sector by Ministry of Food through the Department of Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry for setting up of new sugar factories in Punjab state. All these applications have been scrutinised by the Screening Committee in the Ministry of Food. Screening Committee did not recommend grant of letter of intent / licence to any interpreneur for want of sufficient sugarcane in Punjab. According to Minsitry of Food, there is no scope to set up any new sugar mill in Punjab state at present, keeping in view the present level of sugarcane production in the state.

Boosting Tobacco Cultivation

3258. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noted the news item in the Business Section of Pioneer dated 23rd July, 1994 captioned "Tax cut boosts sales of cheap cigarettes";

(b) whether his Ministry has conducted any examination of the expected boost this state of affairs will give to tobacco cultivation;

(c) if so, what will be the measures taken by his Ministry to advise and assist farmers to raise tobacco production; and

(d) details of steps proposed by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Central Assistance to Poultry Development Projects

3259. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States where poultry development projects have been launched with central assistance;

(b) whether Government have reviewed the performance of these States in poultry development;

(c) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(d) whether any such projects have been launched in Orissa; and

(e) if so, the steps taken for poultry development in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI